

21. (Amended Three Times) An insert adapted to be embedded in a cast member for force-fittingly receiving a leg portion of a step, said insert being comprised of:

c1 a hollow, substantially cylindrical-shaped elongated housing having an open end and a closed end;

one of the open end and the closed end having a flange lying in a plane diagonally aligned with a longitudinal axis of said housing;

another one of the open end and the closed end having a flange lying in a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis;

an interior surface of said housing having a portion thereof being provided with a plurality of projections arranged at spaced intervals and extending radially inward;

each of the plurality of projections having a tapering cross-section defined by a first surface diagonally aligned with the longitudinal axis and facing the open end and a second surface perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and facing the closed end.

c2 23. (Amended) The insert of claim 22 wherein said flange at said open end covers said opening to prevent seepage therethrough.

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24. (Amended) The insert of claim 21 wherein said housing is provided with a second plurality of flanges extending radially outwardly from said housing and spaced along the housing for retaining the insert in place when embedded in a cast member.

25. (Amended Three Times) The insert of claim 21 wherein said closed end has a flange extending radially outward therefrom to seal an opening in a mold core preparatory to insertion of the insert into a cast material.

27. (Amended) In combination, an insert and a reciprocable pin assembly for receiving said insert for insertion into a casting material and removal from the insert after insertion, the combination comprising:

the insert, comprising:

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a hollow, substantially cylindrical-shaped, elongated housing having an open end and a closed end;

one of the open end and the closed end having a flange lying in a plane diagonally aligned with a longitudinal axis of said housing

another one of the open end and the closed end having a flange lying in a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis;

said insert having a first cylindrical-shaped portion of a first diameter;

the reciprocable pin assembly being adapted to detachably engage the insert, the reciprocable pin assembly, comprising:

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a second cylindrical-shaped portion of a second diameter less than said first diameter, one end of said second portion being detachably engaged to the open end of said insert to form an annular shoulder at the juncture thereof; said shoulder lying in a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said pin assembly, said cylindrical-shaped second portion being adapted for insertion into said insert through said open end to cause the open end to, in combination with the cylindrical-shaped second portion, define the shoulder;

a projection being arranged on the one end of the cylindrically-shaped second portion and extending generally outwardly therefrom;

wherein said insert has at least one slot in the first cylindrical-shaped portion extending inwardly from said open end for receiving said projection to align said insert on said pin assembly.

43. (Amended) The insert of claim 41 further comprising:

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said outer surface being provided with a plurality of annular flanges integral with and extending radially outward from said housing and spaced along the housing.